

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed with a divisional application. Entry of these amendments prior to the examination of the application is respectfully requested.

An Information Disclosure Statement form PTO-1449 has been submitted with this divisional application citing all of the references of record in the parent application. The documents have not been provided in this submission, and reference may be made to the parent application for copies of these submitted references. Consideration of the references listed on the form PTO-1449 is respectfully requested.

A substitute specification has been submitted with this Preliminary Amendment to correct a number of minor errors. The substitute specification contains no new matter.

All rejected claims in the parent application have been cancelled by this Preliminary Amendment. The only claims remaining are those indicated as allowable or allowed in the parent application. The objection to the claims and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, of certain claims indicated as allowable have been overcome by the amendments made to these claims in the Preliminary Amendment. Accordingly, the allowance of claims 3, 10-60, 62-66 and 68-74 is respectfully requested. In other words, the amendments made in the Preliminary Amendment to the claims indicated as allowable and allowed comply with the suggestions and recommendations made in the Office Action of October 17, 2003 in the parent application.

The cancellation of claims 1-2, 4-9, 61, 67 and 75-76 is not being made for patentability purposes in this divisional application. Instead, the amendments are being made to satisfy an urgent need on the part of the Assignee to bring a patent to the attention of an Examiner in the Japanese Patent Office, this Examiner being in charge of the examination of the corresponding

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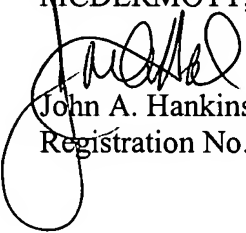
Japanese patent application. Hence, this amendment is not a narrowing amendment made for reasons of patentability.

Since the claims in the application as amended have already been indicated as allowable over the art of record in the parent application, it is respectfully submitted that the present divisional application is in condition for allowance and such action is courteously solicited. If there are any questions regarding this Preliminary Amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated to expedite the prosecution of the application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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